THE VOICE OF GOD IN HIS PROMISES.

THE

VOICE OF GOD

FROM

THE

VOICE OF GOD

IN HIS

PROMISES;

OR,

STRONG CONSOLATION

FOR

TRUE CHRISTIANS,

BEING THE SUBSTANCE AND SPIRIT OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE.

Extracted from the Writings of the

Rev. Mr. JOSEPH ALLEINE,

LATE MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL AT TAUNTON, IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

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Chriſtian Reader,

THOU art here preſented with a rich Collection of precious Truth, proceeding from the very heart of thy heavenly Father, and intended to aſſure thee of the great love wherewith he hath loved thy ſoul.

This is indeed the children's bread, which none will deſire, nor any partake of, but ſuch as ſpiritually hunger. To them it will be a feaſt of fat things. Here *they* will eat, and be abundantly ſatisfied. The voice of the great Shepherd is heard. It is indeed the voice of plenty, for it leadeth to green paſtures, and beſide the ſtill waters. A table is here ſpread for us in the preſence even of our enemies; and it is by proviſions like this that the Father of Heaven crowneth his children with loving-kindneſs and tender mercies.

READER, if thou haſt learnt to "receive promiſes through faith*," and if thy end in receiving them, be that thou mayeſt more abundantly partake of a "divine nature†;" then will the republication of this Golden Tract‡ not only be thought *ſeaſonable*, but it will be to thy ſoul like the repaſt of Elijah under the juniper tree---THOU WILT WALK ON IN THE STRENGTH OF IT, 'TILL THOU ARRIVE AT THE MOUNT OF GOD§.

* Heb. xi. 53. † 2 Pet. i. 4.

‡ Mr. HERVEY, before he died, ſaw this book in the original, and ſaid it was the richeſt piece he ever read in his life.

§ 1 Kings xix. 8.

MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE

OF THE

REV. MR. JOSEPH ALLEINE.

Extracted from the larger Account, printed in 1677.

IN the year 1633 Mr. JOSEPH ALLEINE was born at the Devizes, in Wiltſhire: he was the ſon of a godly father, Mr. Tobias Alleine, a ſignally humble and experienced chriſtian, who died ſuddenly, but ſweetly, not above a year or two before his excellent ſon.

This our author appeared to have a very ſerious ſenſe of religion at a eleven years of age, he earneſtly deſired to be brought up in preparation for the work of the miniſtry, which good motion his father gladly hearkened to, and ſpeedily prepared to put in execution. Such was his great diligence at ſchool, that he redeemed for his book the time allotted for recreation. In the ſpace of about four years

years he attained to a very good knowledge in the Latin and Greek tongues, and was by his ſchool-maſter judged fit for univerſity ſtudies; after which he abode ſome time with his father in the country, where a worthy miniſter of the Devizes read logic to him; and when he was about ſixteen years old, he was placed at Lincoln college, in Oxford, in 1649 or 1650.

He had not been long in the univerſity before a Wiltſhire place becoming vacant in Corpus Chriſti college, he was choſen ſcholar of that houſe, the pregnancy of his parts aſſuring all that his own merits were the ſole friends, the only *mandamus* which brought him in. Being entered and ſettled, he gave both early and conſtant proofs of his indefatigable induſtry; he well underſtood how baſe and contemptible it was to live in a ſchool of learning, no otherwiſe than as if it was a ſanctuary for lazineſs, or a place privileged with nothing elſe but leave and opportunity to eat the founders bread; and with no other ſweat of the brow, than what is provoked or excited in a tennis court.

He ſtudied at Oxford five years, and in the year 1655, about the twenty-firſt year of his age, he left the college, and became aſſiſtant preacher to the Rev. Mr. George Newton, at Taunton, in Somerſetſhire.

Mr.

Mr. Newton writes thus of him, in the memoirs of his life. "I ſoon obſerved him to be a young man of ſingular accompliſhments, natural and acquired. His intellectual powers ſolid, his memory ſtrong, his affections lively, his learning much beyond the ordinary ſize; and above all, his holineſs eminent, his converſation exemplary. In brief, he had a good head, and a better heart."

How he ſpent his time in public and private, and with what indefatigable zeal he ſerved our *Lord Jeſus Chriſt* in the miniſtry, may be ſeen at large in the account of his life and death, drawn up by his friends, 12mo. 1677, which I hope to ſee reprinted, with his excellent letters written in priſon, to his beloved friends and flock at Taunton.

In the year 1662, before the black Bartholomew day came, he would often ſay, "If it pleaſed the Lord to grant him three months liberty before he went to priſon, he ſhould account himſelf favoured by him, and would with more chearfulneſs go when he had done ſome work."

It pleaſed the Lord to indulge him, that he went on in his work from Bartholomew day, till May 26, 1663. The account of his impriſonment, ſee in that part of his life written

written by his wife, Mrs. Theodoſia Alleine (daughter of the Rev. Mr. Richard Alleine) chap. vi. p. 62—72.

In Ilcheſter gaol, Somerſetſhire, he wrote his moſt ſpiritual and animating letters to his people, which are printed at the end of his life.

In the ſame priſon he wrote his excellent little book, intitled, *A Call to Archippus*, to excite miniſters to zeal, diligence, and courage in their maſters work. I wiſh it was reprinted.

In priſon he wrote his *Expoſition of the Aſſemblies Shorter Catechiſm*, which was printed with rules for daily examination.

But, above all, in that gaol he wrote this glorious *Synopſis of the Covenant of Grace*, or, *The Voice of the Lord in his Promiſes*, to which he prefixed the *Voice of the Herald*, and to which he ſubjoined the *Voice of the Redeemed*; all which you have now in your hands.

He alſo added a moſt rich and copious meditation, intitled, *A Soliloquy, repreſenting the Believer's Triumph in God's Covenant, and the various Conflicts and glorious Conqueſts of Faith over Unbelief*.

Theſe precious and moſt comfortable pieces were ſent from gaol to his beloved flock at Taunton, and were both printed in the year 1666,

1666, and inſerted in a book written by his father-in-law, Mr. Richard Alleine, intitled, *Heaven opened*; or, *A brief and plain Diſcovery of the Riches of God's Covenant of Grace, being the third Part of Vindiciæ Pietatis, by* R. A. *London, printed Anno* 1666.

From this book a worthy and pious lady tranſcribed that part ſtiled, *The Voice of the Lord in his Promiſes*, and by her friendly permiſſion I have reprinted it. Since the papers have been in the preſs, and part printed off, the original book has providentially fallen into my hands; and I have been the more exact in giving the title, to the end that ſerious Chriſtians may enquire after it. Whoever reads the whole will have no reaſon to repent of his labour; it is a book full of the beſt riches.

Our dear and excellent Mr. Joſeph Alleine died at Bath, on Saturday, November the 7th, at ſix o'clock in the evening, 1668, in the 35th year of his age.

His *Alarm to the Unconverted*, is known through all the three kingdoms, and will be read whilſt there is a living Chriſtian in the Britiſh nation.

The primary deſign of reprinting this part of his excellent works, is to advance the glory of the rich and abundant grace of God, through

through the blood and righteouſneſs of our *Lord Jeſus Chriſt*, and to promote the holineſs and comfort of the people of God, to whom I am more immediately related, and whoſe eternal intereſts I have deeply and powerfully at heart.

JOHN RYLAND.

NORTHAMPTON,
Nov. 25, 1766.

THE

VOICE OF THE HERALD,

TO COMMAND

SILENCE AND ATTENTION

TO THE

VOICE OF GOD.

O! All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth; come ſee, and hear; gather yourſelves together unto the proclamation of the great king. Hear, you that are far off, and you that are near: he that hath an ear to hear, let him hear; I am the voice of one crying in the wilderneſs, prepare ye the way of the Lord. Let every valley be exalted, and every mountain be made low, for the glory of the Lord is to be revealed. Go thorough, go thorough the gates, prepare the way: caſt up, caſt up the highway; gather out the ſtones, lift up the ſtandard for the people, for the Lord proclaimeth ſalvation to the ends of the earth; tidings, tidings, O ye captives, hear all ye that look for Salvation in Iſrael;

behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which ſhall be unto all people. Bleſſed news! Prepare your ears and hearts; the Lord hath commanded me, ſaying, go unto the people, and ſanctify them, let them waſh and be ready, for the Lord is coming down upon mount Sion, in the ſight of all the nations, not in earthquakes and fire, not in clouds and darkneſs, not in thunderings and burnings, rending the mountains, and breaking the rocks in pieces: he ſpeaks not to you out of the blackneſs, and darkneſs, and tempeſt; you ſhall ſay no more, let not God ſpeak to us, leſt we die; he cometh peaceably, the law of kindneſs is in his mouth, he preacheth peace, peace, to him that is afar off, and to him that is near.

Behold how he cometh, leaping upon the mountains, he hath paſſed mount *Ebal*, no more wrath or curſing; he is come to mount *Gerizim*, where he ſtandeth to bleſs the people; as *Mordecai* to his nation, he writeth the words of truth and peace, ſeeking the welfare of his people, and ſpeaking peace to all his ſeed.

Behold how he cometh, cloathed with flames of love, with bowels of compaſſion, plenteous redemption, and multiplied pardons. O how pregnant is his love! O the rollings of his bowels! Oh how full are his breaſts, even aching till they are eaſed by the ſucking of his hungry children! Hearken, therefore, O ye children, hearken to me. To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time you hear the joyful ſound, the trump of *jubilee*, the tidings of peace in the voice of the everlaſting goſpel, that

that you fall down before the throne, and worſhip him that liveth for ever and ever.

Ariſe, and come away; prepare, prepare you; hear not with an uncircumciſed ear; you are not upon a common thing. Behold the throne is ſet, the throne of grace, where majeſty and mercy dwell together: from thence will the Lord meet you, from thence will he commune with you, from the mercy ſeat, from between the cherubims, upon the ark of the teſtimony. Lo! the Lord cometh out of his pavilion, the mighty God from *Sion*, *Selah*. His glory covereth the heavens, the earth is full of his praiſe. A fire (of love) goeth before him, mercy and truth are round about him, righteouſneſs and peace are the habitation of his throne; he rideth on his horſes and chariots of ſalvation, the covenant of life, and peace is in his mouth.

Rejoice ye heavens, make a joyful noiſe to the Lord of all the earth. Let the ſea roar, the floods clap their hands, and the multitudes of the iſles rejoice. Stand forth the hoſt of heaven, prepare your harps, caſt down your crowns, be ready with your trumpets, bring forth your golden vials full of odours, for our voices will jar, our ſtrings will break, we cannot reach the note of our maker's praiſe.

Yet let them that dwell in the duſt ariſe and ſing. Bear your part in this glorious ſervice, but conſider and attend. Call out your ſouls, and all that is within you. Lift up your voices, fix your eyes, enlarge your hearts, exert all their powers; there is work for them all. Be intent and ſerious, you cannot ſtrain too high. Come

forth ye graces, beſet the way, be all in readineſs. Stand forth faith and hope; flame O love, come ye warm deſires, and break with longing: let fear, with all veneration do its obeiſance. Joy prepare thy ſongs, call up all the daughters of muſic, to ſalute the Lord as he paſſeth by. Let the generations of the ſaints appear, and ſpread the way with boughs and garments of ſalvation, and ſongs of deliverance, *Deut.* xxix. 10 to the 13th. "Ye ſtand this day all of you before the "Lord your God, your captains, your elders, "your officers, with all the men of Iſrael, your "little ones, your wives, and the ſtranger that "is within thy camp, from the hewer of wood, "to the drawer of water: that thou ſhouldeſt "enter into covenant with the Lord thy God "and into his oath, which the Lord thy God "maketh with thee this day: that he may eſta-"bliſh thee to day for a people unto himſelf, "and that he may be unto thee a God, as he "hath ſaid unto thee, and as he hath ſworn."

I have done my errand. The meſſenger of the morning diſappeareth, when the orient ſun cometh forth out of his chambers, I vaniſh. I put my mouth in the duſt. The voice of the Lord! the ſoft and ſtill voice! O my ſoul, wrap thy face in the mantle, and bow thyſelf to the ground, and put thee in the clift of the rock, while Jehovah proclaimeth his name, and maketh all his goodneſs to paſs before thee.

THE

THE

VOICE OF THE LORD

IN THE

PROMISES, &c.

HEAR, O ye ends of the earth, the mighty God, the Lord hath ſpoken: Gather my ſaints unto me, thoſe that have made a covenant with me by ſacrifice. Behold I eſtabliſh my covenant between me, and you. By my holineſs have I ſworn, that I will be your covenant-friend. I lift up my hand to heaven, I ſwear I live for ever; and becauſe I live, you ſhall live alſo. I will be yours: yours to all intents and purpoſes; your refuge and your reſt; your patron and your portion; your heritage and your hope; your God and your guide. While *I have, you ſhall never want*; and what *I am to myſelf, I will be to you*. And you ſhall be my people, a choſen generation, a kingdom of prieſts, an holy nation, a peculiar treaſure unto me above all people. I call heaven and earth to witneſs this day, that *I take you for mine for ever*. My name ſhall be upon you, and you ſhall be pillars in the temple of your God, and ſhall go no more out.

My livery ſhall you wear, and the ſtamp of my own face ſhall you carry; and I will make you my witneſs and the epiſtles of Chriſt unto the world, and you ſhall be choſen veſſels, to bear my name before the ſons of men. And that you *may ſee that I am in earneſt with you*, lo, I make with you an everlaſting covenant, ordered in all things, and ſure; and do here ſolemnly deliver it to you *as my act and deed*, ſealed with ſacred blood, and ratified with the oath of a God; a God that cannot lie, that knows no place for repentance. Come, ye bleſſed, receive the inſtruments of your ſalvation: *take the writings, behold the ſeals*; here are the conveyances of the kingdom. Fear not, the donation is free and full. See it is written in blood, founded on the all-ſufficient merits of your ſurety, in whom I am well pleaſed, whoſe death makes this teſtament unchangeable for ever; ſo that your names can never be put out, nor your inheritance alienated, nor your legacies diminiſhed; *nothing may be altered, nothing added, nothing ſubſtracted, no, not for ever.* Happy art thou, O Iſrael! Who is like unto thee, O people! Only believe, and know your own bleſſedneſs. Attend, O my children, unto the bleſſings of your father, and hear, and know the glorious immunities, and the royal prerogatives that I here confirm upon you.

Here I ſeal you your pardon. Though your ſins be as many as the ſands, and as mighty as the mountains, I will drown them in the *deeps of my bottomleſs mercies*. I will be merciful to your unrighteouſneſs; I will multiply to pardon; where your ſins have abounded, my grace ſhall ſuper-

abound;

abound; though they be as ſcarlet, they ſhall be white as ſnow; though red like crimſon, they ſhall be as wool. Behold I declare *myſelf ſatisfied*, and pronounce you abſolved: the price is paid, your debts are cleared, your bonds are cancelled.

Whatever the law, or conſcience, or the accuſer, hath to charge upon you; here I *exonerate you*, I diſcharge you. I, even I am he, that blotteth out your tranſgreſſions, for my name's ſake. Who ſhall lay any thing to your charge, when I acquit you? Who ſhall impeach or implead you, when I proclaim you guiltleſs? Sons, daughters, be of good chear, your ſins are forgiven you. I will ſprinkle your conſciences, and put the voice of peace into their mouths, and they ſhall be your regiſters, in which *I will record your pardon*, and the voice of guilt, and wrath, and terror ſhall ceaſe.

Here *I ſign your releaſe* from the houſe of bondage. Come forth ye captives, come forth ye priſoners of hope, for I have found a ranſom: I proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the priſon to them that are bound. Behold I have broken your bonds, and ſhook the *foundations of your priſons*, and opened the iron gates; by the blood of the covenant have I ſent forth the priſoners out of the pit wherein there is no water. Ariſe, O redeemed of the Lord, put off the raiment of your captivities, ariſe and come away.

The dark and noiſome priſon of ſin ſhall no longer detain you. I will looſe your fetters, and knock off your bolts. Sin ſhall not have dominion over you.

I will

I will heal your back-ſlidings, I will ſubdue your iniquities, I will ſanctify you wholly, and will put my fear in your hearts, that you ſhall not depart from me. Though your corruptions be ſtrong and many, yet the *aids of my ſpirit*, and cleanſing *virtue* of my word, and *phyſic* of my corrections ſhall ſo work together with your prayers and endeavours, as that they ſhall not finally prevail againſt you, but ſhall ſurely fall before you. From the ſtrong and ſtinking jail of the grave do I deliver you; O death, I will be thy plague, O grave, I will be thy deſtruction; my beloved ſhall not ever ſee corruption.

I will change your rottenneſs into glory, and make your duſt ariſe and praiſe me. What is ſown in weakneſs, I will raiſe in power: what is ſown in corruption, I will raiſe in incorruption: what is ſown a natural body, I will raiſe a ſpiritual body. This very fleſh of yours, this corruptible fleſh, ſhall put on incorruption, and this mortal ſhall put on immortality. Death ſhall be ſwallowed up in victory, and mortality of life. Fear not, O my children; come, and I will ſhow you the enemy that you dreaded; ſee, *here lies the king of terrors*, like Siſera in the tent, faſtened to the ground, with the nail ſtruck through his temples. Behold the grateful preſent, the head of your enemy in a charger. *I bequeath you your conquered adverſary, and make over death as your legacy.* O death where is thy ſting? where now is thine armour wherein thou truſtedſt? Come, my people, enter into your chambers; come to your bed of duſt, and lay you down in peace, and let your fleſh reſt in hope, for even in this fleſh ſhall you ſee God. O ye ſlain of death, your carcaſes, now as loath-

ſome

ſome as the carrion in the ditch, will I redeem from the power of the grave, and faſhion thoſe vile bodies like unto the glorious body of your exalted Redeemer. *Look, if you can, on the ſun,* when ſhining in his ſtrength, with ſuch *dazzling glory will I cloath you,* O ye of little faith.

From the terrible dungeon of eternal darkneſs do I hereby free you: fear not, you ſhall not be hurt of the ſecond death; you are delivered from the wrath to come, and ſhall never come into condemnation; the flames of Tophet ſhall not be able to ſinge the *hairs of your head,* no, nor the ſmell of the fire paſs upon you: *ſtand upon the brink,* and look down into the horrible pit, the infernal priſon, from whence I have freed you; ſee you how the ſmoke of their torments aſcendeth for ever: hear you the *curſings and ravings,* the *roarings* and blaſphemies? What think you of thoſe helliſh fiends? Would you have been willing to have had them for your companions and tormentors? What think you of thoſe chains of darkneſs, of the river of brimſtone, of the inſtruments of torment for ſoul and body, of thoſe weepings and wailings, and gnaſhing of teeth? Can you think of an everlaſting baniſhment, of a go, ye curſed? Could you dwell with everlaſting, could you abide with devouring fire? This is the *inheritance you were born to,* but I *have cut off the entail,* and wrought for you a great ſalvation; I have not ordained you to wrath, but my thoughts towards you are thoughts of peace.

Here I deliver you your protection, from all your enemies will I ſave you. I grant you a protection from the arreſts of the law; your ſurety hath

hath fully anſwered it; my juſtice is ſatisfied, my wrath is pacified, my honour is repaired. Behold I am near that juſtify you, who is he that ſhall condemn you.

From the uſurped dominion of the powers of darkneſs, I will *tread Satan ſhortly under you*, and will ſet your feet in triumph on the necks of your enemies. Let not your hearts be troubled, though you be to wreſtle with principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkneſs of this world; for ſtronger is he that is in you, than he that is in the world; he may bruiſe your heel, but you ſhall bruiſe his head. Behold your Redeemer leading captivity captive, ſpoiling principalities and powers, and triumphing over them openly in his croſs. See how Satan falleth like lightning from heaven, and the *Sampſon of your ſalvation beareth away the gates of hell, poſts*, and *all, upon his ſhoulders*, and ſetteth them up as trophies of his victory: how he *pulleth out the throat of the lion*, and lifteth up the *heart of the traitor upon the top of his ſpear*, and *waſhed his hands*, and *dyeth his robes in the blood* of thoſe your enemies!

From the victory of the world, neither its frowns, nor its flatteries, ſhall be too hard for your *victorious faith*; though it raiſe up Egypt, Amalek, and Moab, and all its whole militia againſt you, yet it ſhall never *keep you out of Canaan*. Be of good comfort, your Lord hath overcome the world; though its temptations be very powerful, yet *this upon my faithfulneſs* will I promiſe you, that no ſuch ſhall come upon you, but what you ſhall be able to bear: *but if I ſee ſuch trials* (which you fear) would be *too hard* for your graces,

graces, and overthrow your ſouls, I will *never ſuffer* them to come upon you; nay, I will *make your enemy to ſerve you*, and do bequeath the world as part of your dowry to you.

From the curſe of the croſs affliction ſhall prove a wholeſome cup to you; your Lord hath *drunk the venom into* his own body, and what remains for you is but a healthful potion, which I will promiſe you ſhall work for your good. Be not afraid to drink, nor deſire the cup ſhould paſs from you: *I bleſs the cup before I give it unto you.* Drink you all of it and be thankful; you ſhall find my bleſſing at the bottom of the cup, to ſweeten the ſharpeſt afflictions to you. I will ſtand by *you in all conditions*, and be a faſt friend to *you in every change*. In the wilderneſs I will ſpeak comfortably to you, and in the fire, and in the water, I will be with you. I will be a ſtrength to the poor, and a ſtrength to the needy in his diſtreſs; a refuge from the ſtorm, and a ſhadow from the heat, when the blaſt of the terrible ones is as a ſtorm againſt the wall. Your ſufferings ſhall not be a cup of wrath, but a *grace-cup; not a curſe*, but a cure; not a cup of trembling, but a cup of bleſſing to you; they ſhall not hurt you, but heal you. My bleſſing ſhall attend you in every condition; I ſay, not only bleſſed ſhall you be in your baſket, and bleſſed in your ſtore, but bleſſed ſhall you be in your poverty, and bleſſed ſhall you be in your ſtreights: not only bleſſed ſhall you be in your cities, and bleſſed ſhall you be in your fields, but bleſſed ſhall you be in your *bonds*, and bleſſed ſhall you be in your *baniſhment*; bleſſed ſhall you be when you are perſecuted,

and

and when you are reviled, and your name is caſt out as evil; yea, then doubly bleſſed. My choiceſt bleſſings, greateſt good, and richeſt ſweets will I put into your evil things. Theſe happy immunities, theſe glorious liberties of the Sons of God, by this *immutable charter* I do for ever ſettle upon you; and do in and with my covenant, unalterably, *irrevocably*, and everlaſtingly convey unto you, and confirm upon you. Yea, I will not only free you from your miſeries, but will confer upon you *royal privileges* and prerogatives, and inſtate you into higher and greater happineſs than ever you have fallen from. Lo, I give myſelf to you, and all things with myſelf.

Behold, O ye ſons of men! behold and wonder, be aſtoniſhed, O heavens! *Be moved ye ſtrong foundations* of the earth, for you ſhall be my witneſſes. This day do I by covenant *beſtow myſelf* upon my ſervants. I will be your God for ever and ever; your *own* God: nothing in the world is ſo *much your own* as I: the houſes that you have built, that you have bought, are not ſo much yours as I am: here you are *tenants* at will; but I am your eternal inheritance: theſe are *loans for a ſeaſon*; but I am your dwelling place in all generations. You have no where *ſo great a propriety*, ſo *ſure* and *unalterable claim as you have here.* What do you count your own? Do you count your bodies your own, your ſouls your own? Nay, theſe are not your own, they are bought with a price; but you may boldly make your claim *to me*; you may freely challenge an intereſt in me. Come near, and fear not; where ſhould

you be free, if not with your own? Where ſhould you *be bold, if not at home?* You are never in all the world ſo much at home, as when you are with me. You may freely make uſe of me, or of any of my attributes, whenever you have need: I will be all to you that you can wiſh: I will be a friend to you; my *ſecrets* ſhall be with you, and you ſhall have all *freedom* of acceſs to me, and liberty to pour out *all your hearts* into my boſom. I will be a phyſician to you: I will heal your back-ſlidings, and cure all your diſeaſes. Fear not, *never did ſoul miſcarry* that left itſelf in my hands, and would but follow my preſcriptions.

I will be a ſhepherd to you. Be not afraid of evil tidings, for I am with you, my rod and my ſtaff ſhall comfort you: you *ſhall not want*, for I will feed you: you ſhall not wander (to be loſt) for I will reſtore you. I will cauſe you to lie down in green paſtures, and lead you beſide the ſtill waters. I will gather you with mine arm, and carry you in my boſom, and will lead on ſoftly, as the flock and the children be able to endure. If officers be careleſs, I will do the work myſelf: I will judge between cattle and cattle. I will ſeek that which was loſt, and bring again that which was driven away, and bind up that which was broken, and ſtrengthen that which was ſick; but I will deſtroy the fat and the ſtrong, and will feed them with judgment. I will watch over my flock by night. Behold, I have appointed my miniſters as your watchmen and overſeers that watch for your ſouls: yea, mine angels ſhall be your watchers, and ſhall keep a conſtant guard upon my flock; and if peradventure the ſervant ſhould ſleep, mine *own eyes* ſhall keep a perpetual

watch over you by night and by day. The keeper of Iſrael never ſlumbereth nor ſleepeth, nor withdraweth his eyes from the righteous. I will guide you with mine eyes; I will never truſt you out of mine own ſight.

I will be a ſovereign to you: the Lord is your judge, the Lord is your law-giver, the Lord is your king. Fear not the unrighteouſneſs of men; I will judge your cauſe, I will defend your right, you ſhall not ſtand at man's bar, you ſhall not be caſt at their vote: let them *curſe*, I will *bleſs*; let them condemn, I will juſtify. When you come upon trial for your lives, to have your eternal ſtate decided, you ſhall ſee your friend, your father, upon the bench; into my hands ſhall your cauſe be caſt, and you ſhall ſurely ſtand in judgment, and be found at the right hand among the ſheep, and hear the king ſay, Come, ye bleſſed, inherit the kingdom.

I will be an huſband to you: in loving-kindneſs, and in mercies, will I betroth you unto me for ever. I will eſpouſe your intereſt, and will be *as one with you*, and *you with me*; you ſhall be for me and not for another, and I alſo will be for you. Though I found you an helpleſs infant, expoſed in its blood, all your unworthineſs doth not diſcourage me: lo, I have looked upon you, and ſpread my ſkirt over you, and put my comelineſs upon you: moreover I ſwear unto you, and enter into covenant with you, and you ſhall be mine. Behold I do, as it were, put *myſelf out of mine own power*; and do here ſolemnly, in this my marriage covenant, make *away myſelf to you*, and with myſelf *all things*.

I will

I will be an everlasting portion to you: *lift up now your eyes eastward, and westward, and northward, and southward*, have you not a worthy portion, a goodly heritage? Can you cast up your riches, or count your own happiness? Can you fathom immensity, or reach omnipotency, or comprehend eternity? All this is yours; *I will set open all my treasures* to you, *I will keep back nothing from you*: all the attributes in the God-head, and all the persons in the God-head, I do hereby make over to you; I will be yours in all my *essential perfections*, and in all my personal relations.

In all mine essential perfections.

Mine *eternity shall be the date of your happiness*. I am the eternal GOD, and while I am, I will be life and blessedness to you; I will be a never-failing fountain of joy and peace, and bliss to you. I am the first and last, that was, and is, and is to come, and *mine eternal power* and God-head shall *be bound for, and to you*.

I will be your God, *your Father, your friend, while I have any being*. I have made mine *everlasting choice* in pitching upon you. Fear not, for the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: my durable riches and righteousness shall be yours. Though all should forsake you, yet *will not I forsake* you. When the world, and all that is therein, shall be *burnt up*, I will be a standing portion for you. When you are forgotten among the dead, with everlasting loving-kindness will I remember you.

Mine *unchangeableneſs ſhall be the rock of your reſt.* When all the world is like the tumbling ocean round about you, here you may fix and ſettle; I am your reſting place.

The immutability of my nature, and of my counſel, and of my covenant, are *ſure footing for your faith*, and a firm foundation for your ſtrong and everlaſting conſolation. When you are afflicted, toſſed with tempeſts, and not comforted, *put in to me;* I am an haven of hope, I am an harbour of reſt for you; here caſt your anchors, and you ſhall never be moved.

Mine *omnipotency ſhall be your guard.* I am GOD almighty, your almighty protector, your almighty benefactor. What though your enemies are many? more are they that are with you, than they that are againſt you; for I am with you. What though they are *mighty?* they are *not almighty*; your Father is greater than all, and none ſhall pluck you (*pluck while they will*) out of my hands. Who can hinder my power, or obſtruct my ſalvation? Who is like unto the GOD of Jeſhurun, who rideth on the heaven for your help, and in his excellency on the ſky. I am the ſword of your ſtrength, and the ſhield of your excellency. I am your rock and your fortreſs, your deliverer, your ſtrength, the horn of your ſalvation, and your high tower. I will maintain you againſt all the power of the enemy. You ſhall *never ſink* if *omnipotency can ſupport you:* the gates of hell ſhall not prevail againſt you: your enemies ſhall find hard *work of it:* they ſhall *overcome victory*, or *enervate omnipotence*, or *corrupt fidelity*, or *change immutability*, or elſe they cannot finally prevail

vail againſt you. Either they ſhall bow or break. Though they ſhall exalt themſelves as the eagle, though they ſhould ſet their *neſt among the ſtars*, even there will I bring them down, ſaith the Lord.

My *faithfulneſs ſhall be your ſecurity*; my truth, yea, my *oath ſhall fail*, if ever you *come off loſers by me*. I will *make you to confeſs*, when you ſee the iſſue and upſhot of *all my providences*, that I was a God *worthy to be truſted*, worthy to be believed, worthy to be *reſted in*, and *relied upon*. If you walk not in my judgments, you *muſt look* for my threats and frowns, yea, and *blows too*, and you ſhall ſee that *I am not in jeſt* with you, nor will indulge you in your ſins; nevertheleſs my loving-kindneſs will I never take from you, nor ſuffer my faithfulneſs to fail; my covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

MERCY.

My *mercies ſhall be your ſtore*. I am the father of mercies, and ſuch a father will I be to you. I am the fountain of mercies, and this fountain ſhall be ever open to you. My mercies are *very many*, and they ſhall be multiplied towards you; *very great*, and they ſhall be magnified upon you; *very ſure*, and they ſhall be for ever ſure to you; *very tender*, and they ſhall be infinitely tender of you. Though the fig-tree do not bloſſom, nor the vine bear, nor the flock bring forth; fear not, for my compaſſions fail not, ſurely goodneſs and mercy ſhall follow you all the days of your lives.

Even to your old age, I am he, and even to hoary hairs will I carry you; I have made, and I will bear, even I will carry and deliver you. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, that I will not turn away from you to *do you good*; I swear that I will shew you the kindness of GOD. I can as *soon forget to be* GOD, *as forget to be gracious:* while my name is Jehovah, merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, I will never forget to shew mercy to you; all my ways towards you shall be mercy and truth. I have sworn that I would not be wroth with you, nor rebuke you; for the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from you, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on you.

OMNISCIENCE.

Mine *omniscience shall be your overseer.* Mine eyes shall be ever open, observing your *wants to relieve* them, and your *wrongs to avenge them;* mine ears shall be ever open to hear the prayers of my poor, the cry of mine oppressed, the clamours, calumnies, and reproaches of your enemies. Surely I have seen your affliction, and know your sorrows; and shall not God *avenge* his own elect? I will avenge them speedily. I see the secret *plots and designs of your enemies* against you, and will disannul their councils. I see your *secret* integrity, and the uprightness of your hearts towards me, while the carnal and censorious world condemn you as hypocrites. Your *secret* prayers, fasts,

faſts, and tears, which the world knoweth not of, I obſerve them, and record them. Your *ſecret* care to pleaſe me, your *ſecret* pains with your own hearts, your *ſecret* ſelf-ſearchings and ſelf-denial; I ſee them all. and your Father which ſeeth in ſecret, ſhall reward them openly.

WISDOM.

My wiſdom ſhall be your counſellor. If any want wiſdom, let him aſk of me, and it ſhall be given him. I will be your deliverer. When you are in darkneſs I will be a light to you; I will make your way plain before you. You *are but ſhort-ſighted*, but I will be eyes to you. I will watch over you to bring upon you *all* the *good* I have promiſed, and to *keep off all the evil* you fear, or to turn it into good. You ſhall have your *food* in its ſeaſon, and your *phyſic* in its ſeaſon; mercies, afflictions, all ſuitable, and in their ſeaſon.

AT DESTRUCTION THOU SHALT LAUGH.

I will *outwit* your enemies, and make their oracles to ſpeak but folly. The old *ſerpent* ſhall not deceive you; I will acquaint you with his *devices*. The deceitful hearts you fear, ſhall not undo you, I will *diſcover* their wiles.

I know how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reſerve the unjuſt to the day of judgment, to be puniſhed. Truſt in me with all your hearts, and lean not to your own underſtanding. I am GOD that performeth all things for

for you. I *will forfeit the reputation of my* wiſdom, if I make *you not to acknowledge* when you ſee the end of the Lord (though at preſent you wonder, and *reach not the meaning of my proceedings*) that all my words are performed *in number, and in time, and in order*; if I *find you not cry out*, manifold are thy works, O Lord, in wiſdom haſt thou made them all.

JUSTICE.

My juſtice ſhall be your revenger and rewarder. Fear not to approach; fury is not in me. My juſtice is not only appeaſed, but engaged for you. I am ſatisfied in the ſacrifice of my beloved. That juſtice that was as a flaming ſword drawn againſt you, doth now *greatly befriend* you; and that which was an amazing, confounding terror, ſhall now become your relief and conſolation. Under *all your oppreſſions*, here ſhall your refuge be. Let me know your grievances, my *juſtice ſhall right your wrongs*, and *reward your ſervices*. You may *conclude* upon your pardons, *conclude* upon your crowns, *conclude* upon reparation for all your injuries, and all from the ſweet conſideration of my juſtice, the thought of which, to *others*, is as the horror of the ſhadow of death. If you ſin, deſpair not; remember, I am juſt, to forgive you. If you are at *any pains or coſt* for *me*, do not count it loſt: for I am not unrighteous to forget you. I am the righteous judge, that have laid up for you, and will ſet on you the crown of righteouſneſs. Are you reviled, perſecuted, defamed? forget not that I am righteous, to render tribulation

to

to them that trouble you; and to you that are troubled, rest with me. Though all your services and sufferings deserve not the least good at my hands, yet as I have *freely passed* my promise to reward them, so I will as *justly keep it.*

OMNIPRESENCE.

Mine omnipresence shall be *company for you*; shall be your social friend, and familiar acquaintance. Surely I will be with you to bless you. No bolts, nor bars, nor bonds, nor banishment, shall remove you from my presence; and the influence of heaven is always with you. In your darkest nights, in your deepest dangers, I am at hand with you, a very present help in the time of trouble. I am not a God *afar off*, *or asleep*, or in a *journey*, when you need my counsel, mine ear, or mine aid; I am always nigh unto them that fear me. *No prison* shall hinder the presence of my grace from you; my presence shall perfume the noisomest wards, and lighten the darkest dungeon where you can be thrust.

HOLINESS.

My *holiness shall be a fountain of grace* to you. I am the God of hope, the God of love, the God of patience, the author and finisher of faith, the God of all grace, and I will give grace to you. My design is to make you *partakers of my holiness*; I will be a constant spring of spiritual life to you. The water that I shall give you, shall be

be in you as a well of water ſpringing up into everlaſting life. The ſeed of life that I ſhall put into you, ſhall be ſo fed, and cheriſhed, and maintained by my power, *that it ſhall be immortal.* The unction that you ſhall receive from the holy one, ſhall abide in you, and teach you all things (neceſſary for you) and as it hath taught you, you ſhall abide in him. Keep but the channels open, and ply the means which I have preſcribed, and you ſhall flouriſh in the courts of your GOD: yea, I will ſatisfy your ſouls in drought, and make fat your bones, and you ſhall be like a watered garden. Lo, I will be as the dew unto you, and you ſhall grow as the lilly, and caſt forth your roots as Lebanon; and your branches ſhall ſpread, and your beauty be as the olive tree. You ſhall ſtill bring forth fruit in old age; you ſhall be fat and flouriſhing.

My ſovereignty ſhall be commanded by you. You ſhall be my favourites, men of power, to prevail with me; all *mine attributes* ſhall be at the *command of your prayers.*

ALL-SUFFICIENCY.

In ſum, *mine all-ſufficiency* ſhall be the *lot of your inheritance.* My fulneſs is your treaſure: my houſe is your home. You may come as freely to my ſtore, as *to your own cupboard;* you may have your hand as *freely in my treaſures* as in *your own purſes.* You cannot aſk *too much,* you cannot look for too much from me; I will give you, or *be myſelf to you inſtead of all comforts.* You ſhall have

have children, or I will be better to you than ten children; you ſhall have riches, or I will be more to you than all riches. You ſhall have friends, if beſt for you, or elſe I will be your comforter in your ſolitude, your counſellor in your diſtreſs. If you leave father or mother, or houſe or lands for my ſake, you ſhall have an hundred fold *in me*. Even in this time, when your enemies ſhall *remove your comforts*, it ſhall be but as the ſtopping *the ciſtern from running, and opening the fountain*; or putting *out the candles, and letting in the ſun*. The ſwelling the waters ſhall raiſe higher the ark of your comfort. I will be the ſtaff of bread to you; your life, and the ſtrength of your days. I will be the houſe and home to you, you ſhall dwell *with me*, yea, dwell *in me*, and I in you. I will *ſtand* and *fall with you*. I will repair your loſſes, and relieve your needs. Can you *burn out the lamp* of heaven, or lave out the *boundleſs ocean* with your hands? Why, the ſun ſhall be *dark*, and the *ſea be dry*, before the father of lights, the fountain of mercies, ſhall be exhauſted. Behold, though the world hath been ſpending upon the ſtock of my mercy, ever ſince I created man upon earth, yet it runs with full ſtream ſtill. My ſun doth diffuſe its rays, and diſburſe its light, and yet ſhines as bright as ever; much more can I diſpence of my goodneſs, and fill my creatures brim full and running over, and yet have never the leſs in myſelf; and *till this all-ſufficiency be ſpent you ſhall never be undone*. I am the GOD of Abraham, and of Iſaac, and of Jacob, and whatever I was to them I will be to you. Are you in want? you know *whither to go*; I *am ever at home*, you

ſhall

ſhall not go away empty from my door. Never diſtract yourſelf with cares and fears, but make known your requeſts by prayer and ſupplication unto me. I will help *when all do fail.* When friends fail, and *hearts fail,* when your eye-ſtrings crack, and your heart-ſtrings break; when your acquaintance leave you, your ſouls leave you, my *boſom ſhall be open to you.* I will lock up your duſt, I will receive your ſouls.

INFINITY.

And mine *infiniteneſs* ſhall be *the extent of your inheritance.* Can you by ſearching find out God? Can you find out the Almighty to perfection? It is as high as heaven, what can you do? Deeper than hell, what can you know? This *height incomprehenſible, this deep unfathomable* ſhall be all yours, for ever yours. I am your inheritance, which *no line* can meaſure, *no arithmetic* can value, *no ſurveyor* can deſcribe. Lift up now your eyes to the ancient mountains, and to the utmoſt bounds of the everlaſting hills, all that you *can ſee is yours;* but your ſhort ſight cannot ken the moiety of what I give you; and when you ſee and know moſt, you are *no leſs than infinitely ſhort* of the diſcovery of your own riches.

Yea further, I will be yours in all my *perſonal relations.* I am the *everlaſting* Father, and I will be a Father to you; I take you for my ſons and daughters. Behold, I receive you not as ſervants, but as ſons, to abide in my houſe for ever; whatever *love or care* children may look for from *their father,* that may you expect from me; and *ſo much*

more as I am *wiſer, and greater, and better* than any earthly parents. If earthly fathers will give good things to their children, much more will I give to you. If ſuch *cannot forget* their children, much leſs will I forget you. What *would my children have?* Your Father's *heart*, and your Father's *houſe*; your Father's *care*, and your Father's *ear*; your Father's *bread*, and your Father's *rod*, theſe ſhall be all yours.

You ſhall have my *fatherly affection*. My heart I *ſhare among you*, my tendereſt loves I beſtow upon you. My fatherly compaſſion, as a father pitieth his children, ſo will I pity you. I will conſider your frailty, and not be extreme to mark what is done amiſs by you, but cover all with the mantle of my excuſing love. My *fatherly inſtruction*, I will cauſe you to hear the ſweet voice behind you, ſaying, This is the way. I will tender your weakneſs, and inculcate mine admonitions *line upon line*, and feed you with milk, when you cannot digeſt ſtronger meat; I will inſtruct you, and guide you with mine eye.

My *fatherly protection*. In my fear is ſtrong confidence, and my children ſhall have a place of refuge. My name ſhall be your ſtrong tower, to which you may at all times fly and be ſafe. To your ſtrong hold, ye priſoners of hope, I am an *open refuge*, a near and inviolable refuge for you.

My *fatherly proviſion*. Be not *afraid of want*; in your Father's houſe there is bread enough. I will care for your bodies. Care not for what you ſhall eat, drink, or put on. Let it ſuffice you, that your heavenly Father *knoweth that* you have

need of all theſe things. I will provide for your ſouls, *meat* for them, and *manſions* for them, and *portions* for them.

Behold, I have ſpread the table of my goſpel for you, with privileges and comforts that no man taketh from you. I have ſet before you the bread of life, and the tree of life, and the water of life, eat, O friends, drink abundantly, O beloved. But all this is but a taſte of what I have prepared. You muſt have but ſmiles and hints now, and be contented with glimpſes and glances here; but you ſhall be ſhortly taken up into your Father's boſom, and live for ever in the fulleſt views of his glory.

My *fatherly probation*. I will chaſten you becauſe I love you, that you may not be condemned with the world.

INTEREST IN THE SON OF GOD.

My ſon I give unto you in a marriage covenant for ever. I make him over to you as wiſdom, for your illumination; righteouſneſs, for your juſtification; ſanctification, for the curing of your corruptions; redemption, for your deliverance from your enemies. I beſtow him upon you, with all *his fulneſs*, all his merits, and all his graces. He ſhall be yours in all his offices. I have anointed him for a prophet; are you ignorant? he ſhall teach you; he ſhall be eye-ſalve to you. I have ſent him to preach the goſpel to the poor, and recovering of ſight to the blind; to ſet at liberty them that are bruiſed. I have eſtabliſhed him

him by oaths as a prieſt for ever. If any ſin, he ſhall be your advocate. He ſhall expiate your guilt, and make the atonement. Have you any ſacrifice, any ſervice to offer? *bring it unto him*, and you ſhall receive an anſwer of peace.

Preſent your petitions by his hand, him will I accept. Having ſuch an high-prieſt over the houſe of GOD, you may come and welcome; come with boldneſs. Him have I ſet up as king upon my holy hill of Sion. He ſhall rule you, he ſhall defend you, he is the king of righteouſneſs, king of peace, and ſuch a king ſhall he be to you. I will ſet up his ſtandard for you; I will ſet up his throne in you. He ſhall reign in righteouſneſs, and rule in judgment; and he ſhall be a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempeſt, and the ſhadow of a great rock in a weary land. He ſhall hear your cauſes, judge your enemies, and reign till he hath put all under *his* feet. Yea, and under *your* feet; for they ſhall be as aſhes under you, and you ſhall tread them, ſaith the Lord of hoſts. Yea, I *will undo them that afflict you*, and all they that deſpiſed you ſhall bow themſelves down at the ſoles of your feet. And you ſhall go forth, and behold the carcaſes of the men that have treſpaſſed againſt me; for their worm ſhall not die, neither ſhall their fire be quenched; and they ſhall be an abhorring to all fleſh.

SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

My ſpirit do I give unto you for your counſellor, and your comforter. He ſhall be a conſtant

inmate with you, and ſhall dwell in you, and abide with you for ever.

I conſecrate you as *temples to his holineſs*. He ſhall be your guide; he ſhall lead you into all truth. He ſhall be your advocate to indite your prayers, and make interceſſion for you, and ſhall fill your mouths with the arguments that *he knows will prevail with me*. He ſhall be oil to your wheels, and ſtrength to your ancles, wine to your hearts, marrow to your bones, and wind to your ſails; he ſhall witneſs your adoption; he ſhall ſeal you up to the day of redemption, and be to you the earneſt of your inheritance, until the redemption of the purchaſed poſſeſſion; and as I give you myſelf, ſo much more all things with myſelf, earth and heaven, life and death, things preſent, and things to come.

Things preſent are yours; lo, I give you Caleb's bleſſing, the upper ſprings, and the nether ſprings. I will bleſs you with all ſpiritual bleſſings in heavenly places in Chriſt.

To you *pertaineth the adoption*, and the glory, and the covenant, and the ſervice of God, and the promiſes. To you will I give the white ſtone, and the new name, acceſs into my preſence, the acceptation of your perſons, the audience of your prayers.

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. I will undertake for your perſeverance, and keep you to the end, and then will crown mine own gift with eternal life. I have made you heirs of God, and co-heirs with your Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and you ſhall inherit all things.

I have

I have granted you mine *angels for your guardians.* The *courtiers* of heaven ſhall attend upon you; they ſhall be all miniſtering ſpirits for your good. Behold I have given them charge over you, *upon their fidelity* to look after you, and, as the tender nurſes, to bear you in their arms, and to keep you from coming to any hurt. Theſe ſhall be as the careful ſhepherds, to watch over my flock by night, and to encamp round about my fold.

My miniſters I give for your guides. Paul, Apollos, Cephas, all are yours. I am always with them, and they ſhall be always with you to the end of the world. You ſhall have paſtors after mine own heart, and this ſhall be my covenant with you, that my ſpirit which is upon you, and my words which I have put into your mouth ſhall not depart out of your mouth, nor the mouth of your ſeed, nor of your ſeed's ſeed, ſaith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.

In *ſhort, all my officers* ſhall be for the profiting and perfecting of you. All mine ordinances ſhall be for edifying and ſaving you. The very ſeverities of my houſe, admonitions, cenſures, &c. and *the whole diſcipline of my family* ſhall be for preventing of your infection, curing of corruption, procuring your ſalvation.

My *word have I ordained* for converting your ſoul, enlightening your eyes, *rejoicing* your hearts, *cautioning* you of dangers, *cleanſing* your defilements, and *conforming* you to mine image. To you I commit the oracles of God. Here you ſhall be *furniſhed* againſt temptations; hence you ſhall be *comforted* under diſtreſſes and afflictions:

here you ſhall find my *whole counſel.* This ſhall inſtruct you in your way, *correct* you in your wanderings, *direct* you into the truths to be believed, detect to you the errors to be rejected.

My ſacraments I give you, as the pledges of my love. You ſhall *freely* claim them, they are childrens bread. Yea, I have given them as ſeals, to certify all that I have here promiſed you; and when theſe ſacred ſigns are delivered unto you, then know, and remember, and conſider in your hearts, that I therein *plight* you my troth, and ſet to my hand; and do thereby ratify and *confirm every article* of theſe indentures, and do actually deliver into your *own hands* this glorious charter, with all its immunities and privileges, as *your own for ever.*

And having ſowed to you ſo largely in ſpiritual bleſſings, ſhall you not *much more reap the temporal?* be you not of doubtful mind, all theſe things ſhall be added unto you, *my creatures* I grant for your *ſervants* and *ſupplies.* Heaven and earth ſhall *miniſter* to you. All the *ſtars in their courſes* ſhall *ſerve* you, and (if need be) ſhall *fight* for you. And I will make my covenant for you with the beaſts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; and you ſhall be in league with the ſtones of the field; and all ſhall be at peace with you. I will undertake for *all your neceſſities;* do I feed the fowls, and cloath the graſs, and do you think I will neglect my children? I hear the young ravens when they cry, ſhall I not much more fulfil the deſires of them that fear me? Fear not, you ſhall be ſure to want no good thing; and you would not yourſelves deſire riches, pleaſures, or

pre-

preferment *to your hurt.* I will give meat to them that fear me: I will be ever mindful of my covenant.

My providences ſhall co-operate to your good. The croſs winds ſhall blow you the ſooner and ſwifter into your harbour. You ſhall be preferred, when you ſeem moſt debaſed; and then be *greateſt gainers*, when you ſeem to be *deepeſt loſers*; and moſt effectually promote your good, when you ſeem moſt to deny it.

Things to come are yours, the perfecting of your ſouls, the redemption of your bodies, the conſummation of your bliſs. When you have glorified me for a while on earth, and finiſhed the work I have given you to do, you ſhall be caught up into paradiſe, and reſt from your labours, and your works ſhall follow you. I will ſend of my own *life-guard*, to conduct home your departing ſouls, and receive you among the ſpirits of juſt men made perfect; and you ſhall look back upon Pharoah and all his hoſt, and ſee your enemies dead upon the ſhore; then ſhall be your redemption from all your afflictions, and all your corruptions. The thorn in the fleſh ſhall be pulled out, and the hour of temptation ſhall be over, and the temper for ever *out of work.*

The ſweat ſhall be *wiped off from your brows*, and the day of cooling and refreſhing ſhall come, and you ſhall ſit you down for ever under my ſhadow; for the Lamb that is in the midſt of the throne ſhall feed you, and lead you unto living fountains of waters.

The tears ſhall be wiped away from your eyes, and there ſhall be no more ſorrow nor crying, neither

ſhall

ſhall there be any more pain; for the former things are paſſed away, and behold I make all things new. I will change *Marah* into *Naomi*, and the cup of ſorrow into the cup of ſalvation; and the bread and water of affliction into the wine of eternal *conſolation*. You ſhall take down your harps from the willows, and I will turn your *tears* into pearls, and your penitential pſalms into ſongs of deliverance. You ſhall change your *Ichabods* into *Hoſannas*, and your *Ejahs* of ſorrow into *Hallelujahs* of joy.

The *croſs ſhall be taken off from your backs*, and you ſhall come out of your great tribulations, and waſh your robes, and make them white in the blood of the Lamb; and you ſhall be before the throne of God, and ſerve him night and day in his temple; and he that ſitteth on the throne ſhall dwell among you, and you ſhall hunger no more, and thirſt no more, neither ſhall the ſun light upon you, nor any heat.

The *load ſhall be taken* off *from your conſciences*. Sins nor doubts ſhall no more defile you nor diſtreſs you. I will make an end of ſin, and knock off the fetters of your corruptions, and you ſhall be a glorious church, not having ſpot or wrinkle, or any ſuch thing; but holy and without blemiſh. Thus ſhall you be brought to the king all glorious, in raiment of needle-work, and clothing of gold; with gladneſs and rejoicing ſhall you be brought and enter into the king's palace. So ſhall the beloved of the Lord dwell ſafely by him, and you ſhall ſtand continually before him, and behold the beauty of the Lord, and hear his wiſdom. Then will I *open in you an everlaſting* ſpring of

of joy, and you ſhall break forth into ſinging, and never ceaſe more, nor reſt day nor night ſaying holy, holy, holy.

Thus ſhall the *grand enemy expire* with *your breath*, and the body of death be put off with your dying body, and the day of your death ſhall be the birth day of your glory.

Have faith in God. Wait but a little, and ſorrow ſhall ceaſe, and ſin be no more.

And then a little longer, and death ſhall be no more; but your laſt enemy ſhall be deſtroyed, and your victory compleated. Yet a little while, and he that ſhall come will come, and you alſo ſhall appear with him in glory. This ſame Jeſus which is taken from you into heaven, ſhall ſo come as he went up into heaven; and when he cometh, he will receive you to himſelf, that where he is, there you may be alſo. Behold his ſign; he cometh in the clouds of heaven with power, and great glory; and every eye ſhall ſee him, and all the tribes of the earth ſhall mourn becauſe of him; but you ſhall lift up your heads, becauſe the day of your redemption draweth nigh. Then ſhall he ſound his trump, and make you to hear his voice in your duſt; and ſhall ſend his mighty angels to gather you from the four winds of heaven, who ſhall carry you in the triumphant chariot of the clouds, to meet your Lord; and you ſhall be prepared for him, and preſented to him, as a bride adorned for her huſband. And as you have borne the image of the earthly, ſo ſhall you bear the image of the heavenly; and you ſhall be fully conformed both in body and ſpirit, to your glorious head. Then ſhall he

confeſs

confeſs you before his angels, and you ſhall receive your *open abſolution before all fleſh*, and be owned, approved, and applauded in the public audience of the general aſſembly. And you ſhall be, with all royal ſolemnities eſpouſed unto the king of glory, in the preſence of all his ſhining courtiers, to the envy, and gnaſhing, and terror of your adverſaries; ſo ſhall your Lord with his own hand, crown you, and ſet you in thrones, and you ſhall judge men and angels, and you ſhall have power over the nations, and you ſhall ſet your feet upon the necks of your enemies.

Lo, I have *ſet the very day for your enſtalment*, I have *provided your crowns*, I have *prepared the kingdom*. Wherefore do you doubt, O ye of little faith? theſe are the true ſayings of God. Are you ſure that you are now on earth? ſo ſurely ſhall you be ſhortly with me in heaven. Are you ſure that you ſhall die? ſo ſurely you ſhall riſe again in glory; lo, I have ſaid it, and who ſhall reverſe it? You ſhall ſee me face to face, and be with me where I am, and behold my glory. For I will be glorified in my ſaints, and admired in all them that believe; and all fleſh ſhall know that I have loved you. For I will make you the *inſtances of my grace*, in whom the whole world ſhall ſee how *unutterably the almighty God can advance the poor worms meat*, and duſt of the ground. And the deſpiſers ſhall behold, and wonder, and periſh; for they ſhall be witneſſes to the riches of my magnificence, and exceeding greatneſs of my power. They ſhall go away into everlaſting puniſhment, but you into life eternal.

For

For no ſooner ſhall *their* doom be paſt, but the bench ſhall riſe, and the judge ſhall return with all his glorious train; with ſound of trumpet, and ſhouts incredible, ſhall he aſcend, and ſhall lead you to your father's houſe. Then ſhall the *triumphal arches* lift up their heads, and the everlaſting gates ſtand open, and the heavens ſhall receive you all, and ſo ſhall you be ever with the Lord. And now will I rejoice over you with ſinging, and reſt in my love; and heaven ſhall *ring with joys* and acclamations, becauſe I have received you ſafe and ſound.

And in that day *you ſhall know* that I am a rewarder of them that diligently ſeek me; and that I *did record* your words, and *bottle your tears*, and tell your wanderings, and *keep an account*, even to a cup of cold water, of whatever you ſaid or did for my name. You ſhall ſurely find that *nothing is loſt*; but you ſhall have full meaſure, preſſed down, and running over; thouſands of years in paradiſe, for the *leaſt good thought*; and thouſand thouſands for the *leaſt good word*; and then the reckoning ſhall begin again, till all arithmetic be nonpluſt. For you ſhall be ſwallowed up in a bleſſed eternity, and the doors of heaven ſhall be ſhut upon you, and there ſhall be no more going out. The *glorious choir* of mine holy angels, the *goodly fellowſhip* of my bleſſed prophets, the *happy ſociety* of triumphant apoſtles, the royal hoſts of victorious martyrs, theſe ſhall be your companions for ever. And you ſhall come in white robes, with palms in your hands, every one having the harps of God; and golden vials full of odours, and ſhall caſt your crowns before me, and ſtrike

in with the multitude of the heavenly hoſt, glorifying God, and ſaying, hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth: bleſſing, honour, glory, and power, be unto him that ſitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

In ſhort, I will make you equal to the angels of God; and you ſhall be the *everlaſting trumpets* of my praiſe: you ſhall be abundantly ſatisfied with the fatneſs of my houſe, and I will make you drink of the rivers of my pleaſures. You ſhall be an eternal excellency, and *if God can die*, and *eternity run out*; *then*, and not elſe, ſhall *your joys expire*. For you ſhall ſee me, as I am, and know me, as you are known, and ſhall behold my face in righteouſneſs, and be ſatisfied with my likeneſs. And you ſhall be the veſſels of my glory, whoſe bleſſed uſe ſhall be to receive the overflowings of my goodneſs, and to have mine *infinite love and glory poured out into you brimful*, and *running over for evermore*. And bleſſed is he that hath believed, for there ſhall be a performance of the things that have been told him. The Lord hath ſpoken it, ye ſhall ſee my face, and my name ſhall be written in your foreheads; and you ſhall no more need the ſun, nor the moon, for the Lord God ſhall give you light, and you ſhall reign for ever and ever. And as I give myſelf to you for your God, and all things with myſelf; ſo I take you for my covenant-people, and you ſhall be mine in the day when I make up my jewels, ſaith the Lord of hoſts; and I will ſpare you as a man ſpareth his own ſon that ſerveth him. The Lord ſhall count, when he writeth up the people; ſurely they are my children.

dren. *I do not only require* you to be mine if you would *have me to be for you; but I do promiſe* to *make you mine*; and to work in you the graces and duties which I require of you, I will circumciſe your hearts to love me. I will take out the heart of ſtone, my laws will *I write within* you. Yet you muſt know I will be ſought unto for theſe things, and as ever you expect to partake of the mercies, I charge you to lye at the pool; and wait for my ſpirit, and be diligent in the uſe of means. I do not treat you according to the rigour of the old terms, I ſhall *not ſtand upon ſatisfaction at your hands*. I have received a ranſom, and do only expect your acceptance, I ſhall not inſiſt upon perfection*. Walk before me, and be upright, and godly ſincerity ſhall be approved by me. Yea, both the faith and obedience that *I require of you*, are mine own gifts.

I require you to accept my ſon by believing; but I will *give you an hand* to take him, and to ſubmit to, and obey him: but *I muſt and will guide your hand* to write after him, and cauſe you to walk in my ſtatutes. I will take you by the arms, and teach you to go; I will order your ſteps, yea, thoſe things will I accept of you, as the graces and actions of a religious life; which, viewed in the ſtrictneſs of my juſtice, and as mixed with ſin would deſerve eternal death. Grace! grace! Amen.

* *i. e.* As the ground of acceptance and the matter of juſtification.

THE

VOICE OF THE REDEEMED,

IN REPLY TO THE

VOICE OF GOD

IN HIS

PROMISES.

AMEN, Hallelujah! Be it to thy ſervants according to thy word. But what are we, and what is our father's houſe, that thou haſt brought us hitherto? And now, O Lord God, what ſhall thy ſervants ſay unto thee? for we are ſilenced with wonder, and muſt ſit down in aſtoniſhment, for we cannot utter the leaſt tittle of thy praiſes: what meaneth the heighth of this *ſtrange love?* And whence is this unto us, that the Lord of heaven and earth ſhould condeſcend to enter into covenant with his duſt, and take into his boſom the *viperous brood*, that have ſo often ſpit their venom in his face? We are not worthy to be as the handmaids, to waſh the feet of the ſervants of our Lord, how much leſs to be thy ſons and heirs, and to be made partakers of all theſe bleſſed liberties

liberties and privileges, which thou haſt ſettled upon us? But for thy goodneſs ſake, and according to thine own heart, haſt thou done all theſe great things. Even ſo father, becauſe ſo it ſeemed good in thy ſight.

Wherefore thou art great, O God, for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beſides, 1 *Sam.* vii. 18. to the end. And what nation on earth is like thy people, whom God went to redeem for a people to himſelf, and to make him a name, and to do for them great things and terrible? For thou haſt confirmed them to thyſelf, to be a people unto thee for ever, and thou Lord art become their God: wonder, O heavens, and be moved, O earth, at this great thing, *Rev.* xxi. 4. For behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they ſhall be his people, and God himſelf ſhall be with them, and be their God. Be aſtoniſhed and raviſhed with wonder, for the infinite breach is made up: the offender is received, and God and man reconciled, and a covenant of peace entered, and heaven and earth are all agreed upon the terms, and have ſtruck their hands, and ſealed the indentures. O happy concluſion! O bleſſed conjunction! Shall the ſtars dwell with the duſt? Or the wide diſtant poles be brought to mutual embraces and cohabitation? But here the diſtance of the terms is infinitely greater. Rejoice, O angels, ſhout, O ſeraphims. O all ye friends of the bridegroom, prepare an epithalamium, be ready with the marriage ſong. Lo, here is the wonder of eternity. For JEHOVAH *hath betrothed himſelf for ever to his hopeleſs captives, and owns the marriage*

before all the world, and is become one with us, and we with him. He hath bequeathed to us the precious things of heaven above, and the precious things of the earth beneath, with the fulneſs thereof, and hath *kept nothing from us.*

And now, O Lord, thou art God, and thy words be true, and thou haſt promiſed this goodneſs unto thy ſervants, and haſt left us nothing to aſk at thy hands, but what thou haſt already freely granted. Only the word which thou haſt ſpoken concerning thy ſervants, eſtabliſh it for ever, and do as thou haſt ſaid, and let thy name be magnified for ever, ſaying the Lord of hoſts, he is the God of Iſrael. Amen, Hallelujah!

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